

CELEBRATING 100 ISSUES

A HISTORY OF THE LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

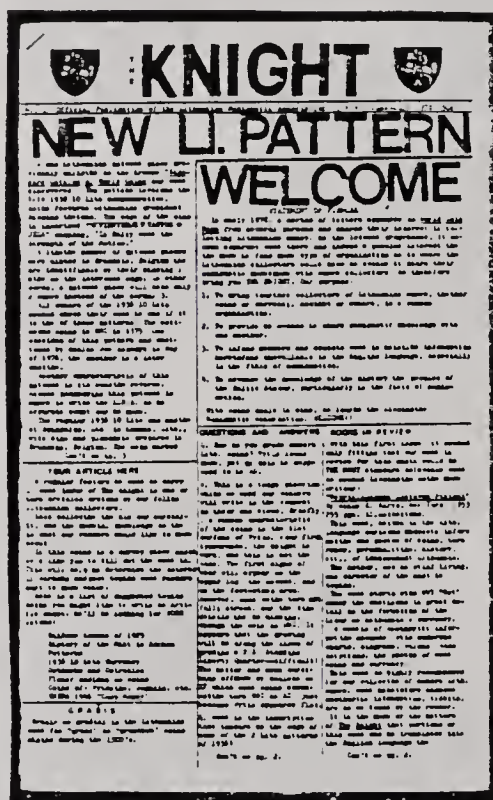
By Frank Passic
Editor, THE KNIGHT

[Reprinted from the Summer 1988 issue Volume 11 Nos. 1-2,
with updates]

AT LEFT: Our

First Issue,

June-July 1978.



FRANK
PASSIC,

Editor,
The Knight



How does one start a numismatic organization and keep it going for 100 issues, or 18 years? This is our 100th issue anniversary, and for the benefit of our newer members, and as a reminder for our charter members, this is the story of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association, our goals and our accomplishments over the past 18 years.

I had been a coin collector most of my life, and active in my local Albion, Michigan coin club. In September, 1977 at an ethnic festival in nearby Jackson, I noticed a Lithuanian booth, sponsored by Arunas and Virginia (Ruzgas) Udrys [Note: Virginia's father is Al Ruzgas, a well known Lithuanian collector and LNA member who lives in New York]. At their booth was a publication, BRIDGES, which gave fascinating information (in English) about Lithuania and Lithuanians.

I might add at this point, that my Lithuanian heritage is on my mother's side. My grandfather, Nikodimas Kulakauskas was born in Nevardėnai (near Varniai) in 1890, the son of Juozas and Juliana (Vazgirda) Kulakauskas. My grandmother, Theodora was born in 1893 in Degučiai (8 km. north of Luokė), the daughter of Ignotas and Barbora (Kondratavičius) Barvidas. My grandparents came to the U.S. in 1911 and 1912, respectively, and were married in Chicago. In 1918 they moved to Albion, Michigan, where I am from and was born in 1953.

Back to my story. With the experience at the ethnic festival still fresh in my mind, the next weekend was our local Albion Coin Club show, of which I was the chairman. At this show, dealer Hascall Pierce had two 1936 1 centas coins in UNC for sale at \$6 each. I purchased these two coins as a reminder of my Lithuanian heritage. These small coins were so innocent, so tiny...Well, since I had that ONE denomination, it meant that I had to get the rest of them, too (\$\$\$) didn't it?

In order to exhibit these Lithuanian coins, you have to know something about them in order to properly prepare the display. No one around where I was from knew anything. Then I remembered reading in BRIDGES that there was a Lithuanian Museum in Chicago--200 miles, or a 4 hour drive away.

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Upon arriving there, I was fascinated by the exhibits, and discovered in the gift shop a book about Lithuanian money by Jonas K. Karys entitled "Nepriklausomos...." (whatever that meant). Thumbing through it, I must have bugged the Librarian, Jurgis, for a whole hour asking him to translate key portions, as I wrote down every word on hastily found scratch paper. The more I learned, the more interesting it got, and I certainly wanted to learn more!

In January, 1978, I wrote to WORLD COIN NEWS to express my excitement about Lithuanian numismatics. After my letter was published in the "Letters to the Editor," soon other letters began appearing from other Lithuanian collectors. One thought he was the *only one* who collected Lithuania! After several letters appeared, the editor of WCN made the remark, "...the rallying cry for a Lithuanian Numismatic Association?" and that did it. We simply *had* to form the LNA!

Soon after we all began writing each other, sharing information, according to the bits and pieces we knew. At this point, Bob Douchis, Vince Alones, and myself decided to form the LNA. Our first issue of THE KNIGHT appeared in June-July 1978, 4 pages (2 sheets), 14 inches long. It was an instant "rallying cry" for Baltic collectors, and we soon had 100 charter members. As information poured in, we soon expanded to 6 pages. Then with the June-July 1979 (Vol. 2 No. 1) issue, we settled on our permanent format, 8 pages, 11 inch long paper.

It is amusing to recall one particular letter we received at the time, from someone who wondered how an entire numismatic organization could be formed around a country which issued only 14 coins?" Yes, there was much people needed to learn, including us!

We, too, were "green" at what we were doing, but together we were able to share information with one another, pool our resources, and come out with very interesting issues of THE KNIGHT, covering all aspects of Lithuanian numismatics.

From almost the very beginning, we gained an important member, Val Matelis (1908-1992), whose translation abilities and familiarity with Lithuanian history made him an extreme asset to the LNA. Val was a Baltimore, MD native, but his freshman year in college was spent at the University of Lithuania in Kaunas. His constant companion there was Juozas Kajeckas, who later served as Lithuania's counsel to the U.S.

Val translated numerous articles for us, as well as all three of Jonas K. Karys' works on Lithuanian numismatics. Despite going nearly blind in his later years, Val continued to be our official LNA translator until only a couple of years before his death in 1991.

Upon Val's resignation as our translator a couple of years before his death, we gained the help of Aleksandras Radžius of Baltimore, Maryland to take Val's place. Aleksandras is especially interested in medieval heraldry, and is considered an expert on the subject.

Our first major project was the translating into the English language of the book *Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai* (1953) by Jonas K. Karys. The translation began in serial form beginning with the October-November 1978 issue, and continued until April-May 1980. This was typed on a manual typewriter by yours truly, in the days before computers and word processing. In fact, THE KNIGHT was typed this way, too.

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VAL MATELIS (1908-1992)



ABOVE (L-R): Henry L. Gaidis, Robert J. Douchis, and Vincent W. Alones at Baltimore, MD, August 24, 1985.

BELOW: LNA Director Aleksandras Radžius.



P-R133 100 Ostmarks, 1918.



100 Ostmarks

P-R133

Size: 170 x 108 mm.

Color: Brown

Serial letters: None. Numerals only.

Serial numerals: 7-digits in red.

Date: Kaunas, April 4, 1918.

Printer: German government printers,
Berlin.

Signatures: Fischer, S. V. Marwitz, Moritz.

Watermark: Stylized 8-pointed ornamental
stars.

During the early years of Lithuanian independence in the 20th century, Lithuania's economy operated under the German-controlled Ostmark system, dubbed "auksinas" by Lithuanians.

Banknotes were issued from Kaunas dated April 4, 1918 from the State Loan East Bank (Darlehnskasse Ost). Their value was equal to the German mark, and greatly relieved the shortage of regular German marks in the waning days of World War I.

Notes circulated in the Baltic region, which is evident by the use of the Lithuanian and Latvian languages as part of the text.

The Lithuanian government reached an agreement with the Germans to continue the use of the Ostmark system after World War I had ended. The Ostmarks were in circulation until October, 1922, when the Lithuanian national monetary system, the *litas*, was established.

The 100 Ostmark note we are highlighting this issue is an excellent "type" note of the set which is generally available to collectors in the higher grades.

The face features a woman on the left facing right, wearing a hairpiece of an olive branch. Opposite on the right, however, a bearded male figure with a military helmet is showing facing left. In the center is found the large numeral "100," with the German text below that translates, "State Loan Bank Note, 100 Marks, Kaunas, the 4th day of April, 1918. State Loan East Bank."

There follows the signatures of the bank officials. At the center bottom in small print is a "guarantee" clause which translates, "Redemption of State Loan Bank Notes of the State Loan East Bank at face value is guaranteed by the German

(Continued next page...)



100 OSTMARKS, 1918

(Continued from page 3...)

government." This "guarantee" was intended to add prestige to the value of the note in the eyes of the population.

The red serial letter appears twice, in the lower right and left corners, printed over the numeral "100." Above the serial number is a diamond shaped ornament featuring grapes on the left, and acorns on the right.

The back is tri-lingual, with German on the top, Lithuanian on the left, and Latvian on the right. The serial number appears twice vertically on the far left and right. In the center is a large numeral, "100." With a male winged figure "Mercury" on the left, and a female figure (who ?) on the right.

The texts translate, "Loan Bank Note," followed by the penalty clause in small print: "Whoever counterfeits the loan Bank notes, alters them, with intent to defraud, and places them into circulation, will be punished with eight years in jail."

The 100 Ostmark note can usually be obtained for \$30-40 in XF-AU condition and makes a nice addition to any Lithuanian banknote collection as a memento of this period in Lithuanian history.

LETTERS

My name is Vytautas Smilgevičius. I am a student of Vilnius University. I work in the Numismatic Department of the National Museum of Lithuania. I am a master of arts. My field of interest is numismatics and I have maintained my bachelor's degree, "Works of Povilas Karazija in the Lithuanian Numismatic Field." [The writer then talks about Karazij, which we covered in our January-February issue, written by Smilgevičius].

Karazija's article, "The Sančiai Hoard" is the last book that remained unpublished after the author's death. It was finished in 1952 and the author discussed the Sančiai hoard of the first type Lithuanian coins. For three years the author was unable to publish it for reasons that I do not know. Now I am taking care about publishing of this book and as soon as it is published, I will send you a copy.

You are absolutely right that Povilas Karazija wrote a study about Lithuanian numismatics, but, unfortunately, it disappeared after his death. Also missing was his study about Panevėžys, where Karazija was born.

I have read with great interest what you have done in the field of Lithuanian numismatics and I think you have done the most in researching and popularization of it. Also, the edition of The Knight is unique in the history of Lithuanian numismatics.

I am seeking information about the first Lithuanian coins. Now I am writing my thesis to obtain a master of sciences degree. The thesis is entitled, "The problem of the very first coins of Lithuania in historiography." I have read the various sources, i.e. Jonas Karys, articles in the USA-printed *Aidai*, and others. But maybe there are American authors who wrote about these coins. I would appreciate any information, if possible.

With best wishes for you and your newspaper. Sincerely,
yours, Vytautas Smilgevičius, Arsenalo Str. 1, 2001, Vilnius, Lithuania.

IGNAS DOMEIKA

[From KARYS, February 1974 issue. Also the December 1982 issue of the Lithuanian Philatelic Society of New York Bulletin, and the Encyclopedia Lituanica.]

Ignatius Domeika (1801-1889) was a scientist, geologist, mineralogist, chemist, naturalist, and a discoverer. He was born August 22, 1801 in Niedzvede, in the Naugardas District [Encyclopedia Lituanica says Breslauja/Braslav District] in the Gardinas Province [Grodno] of Lithuania. This 19th century scientist became the most famous Lithuanian in South America.

He studied natural sciences and law in the University of Vilnius. He was schooled by the Friars from 1812-1816, and later studied mathematics and physics in Szczuczyn, receiving his Master's Degree in 1822, but continued his studies in Law, 1822-1823.

In 1819 he joined with a Secret Students' Society where he made friends with Adam Mickiewicz and other patriots. Because of his clandestine activities, he was arrested by the Russians and imprisoned 1823-24. He was closely watched by the Czarist Gendarmes thereafter. He was forbidden to live in Vilnius, even though he took his exams there in 1824 for his Master's Degree.

With the Revolution of 1831 in Lithuania, Domeika was a Secret Emissary sent to Warsaw to report on activities in Samogitia. But he could not get past the Russian Border Patrol and had to return home unhappily. He joined up with the Polish Expedition Corps under Chlapowski and was made his adjutant. With the formation of a Lithuanian Unit in the 25th Regiment, he was the Regiment's Adjutant. The Encyclopedia Lituanica states Domeika was an aide-de-camp of the 23rd Lithuanian Regiment.

They joined General Gelgudas and left the 25th regiment to defend Kaunas, but was taken prisoner by the Russians (The EL states he withdrew with the army of General A. Gielgud to East Prussia). Fortunately, he was able to escape to Prussia where he was interned in Asekne, Klaipėda District, and Fischhausen and Gerdave. Here Domeika obtained exit visas for France and left for Dresden where, en route, he met up with his former Secret Society friends.

On August 1, 1832, he reached Paris where he enrolled in Sorbonne and later in Ecole des Mines. He, now, avoided all political entanglements and his maintaining that he was a Lithuanian irritated his Polish friends. Domeika collaborated with French scientists, Polish and Lithuanian Aristocrats. In 1837, he received a Diploma from the Ecole des Mines and found employment in Alsace where he continued his studies in mineralogy (The EL states the degree was in geological engineering, and that for a while, Domeika worked in the coal mines of Alsace in northern France).

At that time, a Chilean representative was in Paris recruiting a professorial staff for the newly opened Advanced Studies School in La Serena, Coquimba, Chile. Domeika's teachers recommended him highly, and not being able to return to his native land, accepted their invitation to teach for a period of six years.

From 1838, he became well known for his scientific and organizational work in Chile, which went on for 50 years. Until 1847, in Coquimba, he organized and supervised the Advanced Chemical & Mineral School.



Igno Domeikos medalls

In 1839, he was made a professor of Mineralogy, Geology, and Physics at the University of Santiago, where he worked until 1884. He was the Rector of the University of Santiago from 1867-1883.

In 1843, he offered to reorganize the whole Chilean school system according to the pattern of Vilnius University. For a while, he was even Minister of Education for Chile. Through his efforts was established the Advanced School of Mines. He also represented Chile at the Paris Exposition.

As a scientist, he researched Chile's mineralogy and geology, making expeditions and even studying volcanic activity. He researched the country's natural resources, finding copper veins, gold mines, and coal deposits to augment Chile's economy. He popularized Chile's salt Peter resources in Europe, promoting its export. He discovered, till then unknown, the minerals "Agnerite" and "Domeikite," (domeicit) the latter a copper ore (Cu_3Ag) with a copper content of 71.7%.

Domeika assembled a collection of over 6,000 different minerals. He donated to the University of Santiago his library of some 15,000 scientific literature publications. His name is enshrined in the fields of Chilean Mineralogy, Paleontology, and Botany.

The Chilean government, in gratitude, awarded him an annual pension of 30,000 francs in 1884. A gold medal was struck in his honor in 1885, with the text, "In the Name of Your Friends and Pupils in Chile-Science, Accomplishments, Impartiality, 1885." A monument with his bust was erected in his honor. The Mountain Range "Cerro Domeyco" was named for him. His town was named "Domeyco," and a Port in South Chile was named "Puerto Domeyco." Even a plant was also named "Domeycoa."

His works were written mainly in Spanish, also in French, Polish, and German for journals. He was a prolific writer of scientific works as well as many ethnic recollections which were written in Polish. He even wrote a play that was published by Zawadzki in Vilnius in 1860. He also made translations from the Spanish about his travels in the southern part of Chile.

Domeika married a Chilean girl in 1850, forming a Spanish family. Even at age 80, he made a trip visiting Europe in 1884. He was welcomed in Warsaw, visiting the University there, donating to them a collection of Chilean minerals.

He visited his daughter who was married to his cousin, Leon Domeika. In 1887, the Jogaila University in Cracow bestowed on him the Honorary Doctor of Medicine Degree. That same year, he went to Rome to attend his son's consecration into the priesthood. From there, Domeika went to Jerusalem, returning to Chile on November 15, 1888 with his son. A second son, Casimir, graduated from the Paris Mountain Institute and was Chile's Minister of Finance. Returning with him also was his third son, Justin.

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LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY

BY

Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by
V.L.G. Matelis

31.



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6.

METRAS/METER (abbreviated m.). The basic unit for measuring length in the metric system, equalling 100 centimeters. 1000 meters make a kilometer.

METRINĖ SISTEMA/Metric System. A decimal system of measure, based upon the length of a predetermined meter. From the 17th century, scientists were concerned to establish a universal, constant measuring system acceptable to all countries. In 1771, the French Academy of Science offered the length of the meter, one ten millionth part of the quarter meridian in Paris. Having measured this, a platinum pole was produced and named a meter (in French, metre, from the Greek metron--a measure), in that same year by December 10th statute, this unit of length was accepted in France. In 1870-72, an International Committee approved: to establish the Parisian etalon (the meter) as a fitting measure of length for all countries, and to produce a new specimen meter from very sturdy material (platinum and iridium mixture). That meter is stored in the international office of weights and measures in Sevres city, France (not far from Paris). From it, copies were made later for other countries and at the end of the 19th century, the meter became very widespread. The Anglo-Saxon world still maintains old fashioned measures, though in science it is impossible to operate without the meter. From the meter developed the entire metric system of weights and measures, whose basic units are: of length, the meter, and of weight and mass, the gram. After freeing herself from the slavery of Czarist Russia, Lithuania accepted the metric system (replacing the archaic Russian measures) on January 1, 1922.

METROLOGIJA/Meterology. The science of weights and measures, their analysis, adjustment, description and application.

MIL (from the Latin mille, a thousand) 0.001 part of the Palestinian monetary "pound," prior to the establishment of the Israeli state, a 1 m. bronze coin.

MILIGRAMAS/Milligram (abbr. mg). A thousandth of a gram.

MILIMETRAS/Millimeter (abbr. mm). 0.1 of a centimeter. 1,000 make up a meter.

MILL. A theoretical unit of the USA monetary system, at 0.1 of a cent or 0.001 of a dollar. However, a mill coin has never been coined in America.

MILREISAS/Milreis. a. A Portuguese monetary unit of 1000 reis, prior to the introduction of the escudo. b. The monetary unit of Brazil of 1000 reis, prior to the introduction of the kruezero.

MINA (Babylonian-Assyrian mana, Greek mna, Latin mina). A twofold unit of weight in the ancient Orient. One is twice heavier than the other. Further, as developed from the inscriptions, these weights were known as "King's mina" or "State's mina" etc. However, how much they weighed in today's scales is unknown. The Persians, striking their darick, reckoned the mina weighing about 504 gr., divided into 60 sheckels. The Semitic mina was held at 1/50th of a talent and was divided into the same number of sheckels. Receiving its weights from the Orient, the Greeks divided the talent likewise into 60 minas, and the mina into 100 drachmas. The mina of Athens weighed about 436 gr.

MINUSKULA/Miniscule (Latin, minisculus). A. A script writing in ancient medieval times in small letters. B. The small letters of the alphabet. C. In numismatics, a coin's legend, inscription or its parts, struck in miniscule, small letters.

MODELIS/Model. A specimen of a certain type of an object. The face of a coin (or medal) created in relief by a sculptor, medalist or engraver, from which the first dies are produced.

MODERNIŠKOJI MONETA/Modern Coin. A. By a consensus of USA numismatists, a coin prepared after the beginning of the modern age (after 1500). B. The sense of the word, a coin of any age struck following all the requirements set forth in approved techniques of art, and orthography. CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

DANIEL KOSTHE OF MINDEN, IN LITHUANIA

7.

By Eugenijus Ivanauskas
Kaunas, Lithuania

Various forms of Daniel Kosthe's (Daniel Kosthe de Minda) name have survived from historical documents, e.g., Daniel Kosthedy Minnadano, Daniel Kostede Minden, Daniel Kostede von Minden. The fact that he used the name of his town of origin attests to the fact that he was living abroad. Apparently, the residents of the places Kosthe visited were not familiar with the preposition "de," thus, its joining to his surname. One might wonder why Daniel Kosthe used the preposition "de" instead of "zu" or "von." In the German culture of Kosthe's time, "de" was also used.

Little is known about Daniel Kosthe. His arms, lion rampant crossed by a fauchard, are found on Lithuanian coins dated 1596 and 1597. Daniel Kosthe's lease of the Vilnius Mint from the Chancellor of Lithuania, Leonas Sapiega, found at the Sapiega Collection at the Lvov State Library of Science sheds some light on him.

Daniel Kosthe was a nobleman and had rented the Polish mint in Lublin in 1595 and 1596. On March 30, 1596, Kosthe signed a lease for the Vilnius Mint for a five year term with Leonas Sapiega. The period of the lease was to be between July 20, 1596, and July 20, 1601. In the lease, the Chancellor of Lithuania noted that he had rented the mint from the King of Lithuania, but was not able to operate it due to other commitments and difficulties (financial? E.I.), thus the lease to the above mentioned fine gentleman, Daniel Kosthe. The latter was given full use of the mint facilities for the minting of silver and gold coins.

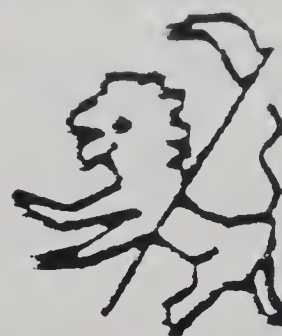
Leonas Sapiega promised not to impose any obstacles in the operation of the mint and to protect Kosthe, so that he could perform his duties. All the craftsmen, workers and other personnel associated with the mint were to submit to Daniel Kosthe. Further, he was permitted to hire new workers and purchase gold and silver. The lessee was to pay Leonas Sapiega 1,000 Polish silver gulden annually, in advance, i.e. on July 2 of each year for the upcoming year. It appears from the lease that the rent had already been paid for the year 1596-1597.

In the event the rent was not paid on time, Leonas Sapiega reserved the right to repossess the Mint and re-rent it. Further, Daniel Kosthe was to mint into coins annually, at no charge, 200 marks of silver and 1,000 gold ducats provided by Leonas Sapiega. In the event that no silver or gold was provided for minting into coins, Kosthe was to pay Sapiega 200 Polish silver gulden on July 15 of that year. Daniel Kosthe was to mint coins according to the established standard for weight and fineness. Kosthe would have to account to Leonas Sapiega personally, in the event of any variation from the standard.

Although Daniel Kosthe had planned to lease the mint for five years, judging from the coins that bear his arms, it appears that he could afford it for but a single year.

Under the oversight of Daniel Kosthe, new obverse and reverse dies for three *grašis* coins with the arms of Daniel Kosthe are rare. They are not found in hoards uncovered in Lithuania. Only a few pieces are found in private collections. However, this does not imply that few coins were minted. There are known instances where large shipments of coins went straight from the mint to a neighboring country.

Daniel Kosthe's short stay at the mint indicates that his circumstances were unfavorable. With increasing costs for raw material and services, it became increasingly difficult to continue minting coins according to the established standard. Either Daniel Kosthe did not foresee the changing economic situation or decided to take the risk regardless. He cancelled the lease of the Vilnius Mint in 1597, and probably left Lithuania.



AT LEFT: The arms of Daniel Kosthe, featuring a Lion rampant crossed by a fauchard. Found on Lithuanian coins dated 1596 and 1597.

P. Weinmeister writes that Daniel Kosthe was the mint master of the Einbeck Mint, this must have been in 1598 and 1599, since he was the mint master of the mint for Count Altona of Holstein Schauenburg between 1599 and 1607. Kosthe's arms are found on the coins of that principality dated 1599-1604 and 1607. His arms are also found on the Lippe groschen dated 1610-1616. From the above, it appears that Daniel Kosthe first stayed at Einbeck near Minden, then moved to Altona, not far away, then, probably, to Blumberg. He was familiar with these places and there, conditions were favorable for his professional services.

It should be noted that Daniel Kosthe was born near Goslar and the Stollberg silver mines. During the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th century, locally minted groschen and half-groschen coins were being taken into Lithuania and Poland from Westphalia. It was probably in the hope of profiting from the reworking of this German silver that encouraged Kosthe to seek his fortune in Eastern Europe.

TRANSLATOR'S COMMENTS

By Aleksandras Radžius

A fauchard is a hook on a long pole used by infantrymen of the middle ages to pull a knight from his mount. In heraldry, a lion symbolizes bravery. The lion in Kosthe's arms is a lion rampant.

In the arms of Kosthe, the fauchard does not pierce the lion, rather it crosses the lion and it is on top, not underneath the lion. So an accurate description of the arms would be a lion rampant crossed by a fauchard. If the fauchard was underneath the lion, the description would be "a lion rampant crossing a fauchard."

The fauchard is in the dominant position. The fact that the fauchard is facing heraldic left and the lion faces heraldic right indicates a weak equality of the two devices. The fauchard remains in the dominant position, even if only by 51%, since it is on top.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

THE FOLLOWING IS OUR LIST OF LNA MEMBERS. THOSE WITH "CM" AFTER THEIR NAME ARE CHARTER MEMBERS. THOSE WITH AN ASTERISK (*) GAVE A DONATION IN EXCESS OF THE \$15 SUBSCRIPTION FEE. WE THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THOSE DONATIONS, WHICH HELP WITH EXPENSES, AND FINANCE SENDING ISSUES TO INSTITUTIONS IN LITHUANIA. MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS (EXCEPT CHARTER MEMBERS) FOLLOW EACH NAME. AN "I" MEANS IT IS AN INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTION.

- Rev. Peter J. Alisauskas CM, White Haven, PA
 Vincent W. Alones CM, Floral Park, NY
 William V. Amshay #342, Peoria, AZ
 John E. Armonas* #162, Mentor, OH
 Frank J. Backitis* CM, Charleston, SC
 John W. Balchunis* CM, Virginia Beach, VA
 Baltech Publishing #338, Lemont, IL
 Balzekas Museum* CM, Chicago, IL
 Paul Barbatavičius #341, Scarborough,
 Ontario, CANADA
 Dennis O. Bartoszkiewicz* CM, Brigantine, NJ
 Walter Berke* #337, Rochester, NY
 G. Bliudzius #289, Barrington, IL
 Julius W. Boris #132, St. Petersburg, FL
 Joseph J. Brazen, Sr.* #309, Chino, CA
 Bridges Newsletter (I), Gloucester, VA
 Larry A. Brown #331, Shandon, CA
 William S. Bubelis #321, Seattle, WA
 Raymond R. Budd CM, Canton, OH
 Michael S. Burokas* #185, Pennsauken, NJ
 Julia A. Busanovich* #328, Philadelphia, PA
 Coin World (I), Sidney, OH
 George M. Daru CM, Wilkes Barre, PA
 Donald D. Dausinas #323, Chicago, IL
 Jim Donaghy* #256, Plymouth Valley, PA
 Bruce Donahue CM, Accord, MA
 Robert J. Douchis* CM, Columbia, MD
 Anthony H. Dyczus #345, Wenham, MA
 Steve A. Feller #329, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Henry L. Gaidis #129, Olney, MD
 Cassy Garelis* CM, Redford, MI
 John Glynn* CM, London, ENGLAND
 Lee Gordon #334, Buffalo Grove, IL
 J. R. Greene #233, Athol, MA
 Deborah Gugel #332, Piscataway, NJ
 Ray Hafsaas #237, Seattle, WA
 Richard J. Hamlin* #261, Hacienda Hts. CA
 Edward J. Hartfik #242, Hamtramck, MI
 Russel A. Hibbs #149, Henderson, KY
 Don R. Hiltunen CM, Hancock, MI
 Olle Holden #348, Hagersten, SWEDEN
 Kenneth Humphreys #325, Granite Falls, SC
 Eugenijus Ivanauskas, Kaunas, LITHUANIA
 Arunas Jablonskis #318, Oakbrook Terrace, IL
 Arvinas Jarasius #255, Westminster, CO
 Kenneth Kacinskas #259, Peabody, MA
 Carl Kazakauskas* CM, Philadelphia, PA
 Brian J. Kenny #179, Ellington, CT
 Algirdas Kepalas* #193, Levittown, NY
 Don T. Kerutis #339, Leroy, MI
 William Količius #344, Allison, Park, PA
 Douglas W. Komer*, #219, Detroit, MI
 John C. Kozimbo #310, Linden, NJ
 Aleksandras Kubilas, Vilnius, LITHUANIA
 John J. Lapinski #273, Oak Brook, IL
 ANA Library (I), Colorado Springs, CO
 ANS Library (I), New York, NY
 Tal Liepa #316, Des Moines, IA
 Lith. Numis. Assoc (I), Vilnius, LITHUANIA
 Embassy of Lithuania (I), Washington, DC
 Bank of Lithuania (I), Vilnius, LITHUANIA
 Finance Ministry of Lithuania (I), Vilnius, LT
 Mint of Lithuania (I), Vilnius, LITHUANIA
 Robert T. Luddy #260, Greenbelt, MD
 John W. Maly #340, Syracuse, NY
 Peter A. Manti #224, Lake Zurich, IL
 Dmitry Markov #317, New York, NY
 Elgy M. Masaitis* #322, Westfield, MA
 John T. Maske #245, Boulder, CO
 John B. McCaugherty #226, Westmont, IL
 Tim Meier #314, Wilmette, IL
 Lou Merkys* #265, Lyndhurst, OH
 Juozas Mikaila #200, Troy, MI
 Edward F. Mikutis CM, Berwyn, IL
 Casimir V. Milukas #223, Richmond Hill, NY
 Sarunas Mingela #204, Northville, MI
 Algerd S. Monsstavičius* #222, San Francisco, CA
 Robert J. Mross #250, San Diego, CA
 Edward S. Muszynski #168, Farmington Hills, MI
 Jerome J. Norton #209, Syosset, NY
 James Z. Olson* CM, Seneca, IL
 Harry W. Oshrin #333, San Bernardino, CA
 Joseph V. Palskis* #257, Webster, NY
 James Paper #295, Simpsonville, MD
 Frank Passic* CM, Albion, MICH
 Donald C. Pickering* #188, Nashua, NH
 Y. Plasseraud* #343, Paris, FRANCE
 Audrius Plioplys #347, Chicago, IL
 Anne Pridala* #324, Crown Point, IL
 Aleksandras Radžius* #138, Baltimore, MD

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Ignas Ropininkas, Kaunas, LITHUANIA
 Algirdas Ruzgas CM, Woodhaven, NY
 Vincent Samaska #326, Chicago, IL
 Judson P. Saviskas #264, Riverside, CT
 Tony Seniunas #330, Hamilton, Ont. CANADA
 Xavier Servais #126, Tournai, BELIUM
 Peter Shulin* CM, Washington, PA
 Sharon M. Sienuta #284, Arlington, PA
 Gordon A. Singer #302, Greenbelt, MD
 Tyge Sondergard #228, Nr. Alslev, DENNMARK
 Alfonsas Stanevičius* #268, Lynden

Ontario, CANADA

Adolph V. Stankus, Jr. #183, Gardnerville, NV
 Mel Steinberg CM, San Anselmo, CA
 Karl Stephens CM, Temple City, CA
 Arthur J. Stetkis #336, Brockton, MA
 Anthony Tumonis #308, Tucson, AZ
 Rimas Vaitenas #346, Wheaton, IL
 Peter Vaitkevičius* #272, Mukwonago, WI
 Gediminas Vaitkus* #149, Tijeras, NM
 Raymond Variakojis CM, Rocky River, OH
 William Velms* CM, Ansonia, CT
 Eugene Vidmantas #267, Rochester, NY
 Paul Waichulaitis* CM, Waupaca, WI
 World Coin News (I), Iola, WI
 Kazmier Wysocki CM, S. Hackensack, NJ
 Michael Yanuskevich* #200, Nashua, NH
 Joseph P. Zager #335, Sumter, SC
 Edward D. Zemaitis CM, Woodhaven, NY
 Anne Ziichko #303, Fishkill, NY
 Victor Zilaitis #306, Sun City Center, FL
 K. Paul Zygas #327, Tempe, AZ

ADDITIONS

Stanley S. Baibak, #349, Brighton, MI
 Sergej Sazonenkov, #350, Visaginas, LITHUANIA
 John P. Zokaite, #345, West View, PA

THE KNIGHT. Volume 18 No. 5, Issue #100. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association.

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The LNA is member of the American Numismatic Association C-117903.

for many years. Looking back, it is amazing what we were able to do with the equipment we had available to us back then!

While this was going on, I volunteered myself as the numismatic curator at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago. Soon a wealth of uncataloged material was discovered, mostly from the estate of the late Lithuanian numismatist and physician, Dr. Aleksandras M. Rackus. Each box was a discovery in itself! The museum then financed the issuance of our custom-made Capital Plastic Lithuanian coin holders, to house the 14-coin set 1925-1936-1938. This was announced in our April-May 1979 issue. The 100 holders soon sold out, and since that time another 300 have been made, making a total of 400 holders.

With all this excitement going on, I had the privilege of visiting Soviet-occupied Lithuania in October, 1979, and was able to privately meet with a group of Lithuanian collectors in Vilnius, who showed me their fantastic "underground" collections. I made friends and correspondence which has lasted to this day. Now with Lithuania being free and independent again, I would like to visit Lithuania again someday.

We held our first LNA meeting on December 19, 1978, at the New York International Numismatic Convention, with member Vincent Alones and Robert Douchis as master of ceremonies. Dealer Karl Stephens and writer Dave Alexander were our first speakers. At the weekend convention, we passed out special Lithuanian coin trends (December-January 1979 issue). Our second meeting was held March 25, 1979 at the Chicago International Coin Fair, with myself in charge. Speakers were Stanley Balzekas, Jr., and Jonas Z. Augustinius (the latter passed away in 1992). Our next meeting was held a year later at the 1980 CICF on June 1, with our fourth meeting being held on March 15, 1981 at the CICF.

In April 1982 we joined the American Numismatic Association (C-117903), and held our fifth meeting at the ANA convention in Boston, with Vince Alones presenting a slide show about Lithuanian numismatics in which over 35 persons attended. We soon thereafter held our sixth meeting at the New York International show on December 11, 1982, which was also moderated by Vince.

Another big LNA meeting was held in Detroit on July 28, 1984 with Vince and yours truly moderating. Ten years later in 1994, we met again in Detroit at the ANA convention, and had a wonderful reunion with many of our midwest collectors who drove to the event.

Starting with our October-November 1980 issue, we began our second major project, the translation of Jonas K. Karys' *Ancient Lithuanian Money* (1959). This monumental project, translated of course by Val Matelis, continued in serial form until the August-September, 1982 issue.

We began Val's translation of Jonas K. Karys' last major work, *Numizmatika* (1970), or Lithuanian Numismatic Dictionary, beginning with the February-March 1989 issue, and which continues to this day.

During the 1980s, Vince Alones and Henry L. Gaidis presented several articles about Lithuanian military orders and decorations, which wet the appetite of those wishing to collect along this line.

Our February-March 1983 issue featured a special insert cataloging the early/first Lithuanian coins issued under the Dukes, which was soon followed by coins issued by the Kings of the Grand Duchy era. The classic work by noted

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numismatist Povilas Karazija, *The Coin Hoards of Aluona-Skleriai and Kruminiai*, was translated into English by Val, and we made that available to our LNA members.

A sad event occurred in 1984, when we learned of the death of LNA member and former director of the Lithuanian Mint, Jonas K. Karys, who died on March 26, 1984.

In January 1986, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture moved into its new location at 6500 S. Pulaski Rd. in Chicago (60629), and with it, yours truly was able to assemble a Lithuanian numismatic room, filled with items about Lithuania's numismatic history. Several LNA members contributed funds to make this room possible. Every LNA member should make an attempt to visit the Museum and see the numismatic collection on display in this room. I have recently updated the displays and placed the texts on computer, replacing the old Olympia typewriter which I used back in 1986.

Our LNA members have been generous over the years in helping us. We purchased a camera with a macro-lens that takes photographs of coins and photographs, which has helped us tremendously in providing illustrations here in THE KNIGHT. We also purchased an electronic typewriter in 1987 which we used for many years in producing THE KNIGHT, until it literally wore out from over-use. Since its demise, I have been typing up THE KNIGHT on a borrowed computer, which I think has improved the quality and quantity of our publication. It is nice to be able to use Lithuanian character letters, and different sized fonts. I can also correct my mistakes and edit much better than with the old typewriter method.

We are an active numismatic organization, and have had a remarkable effect on world numismatic literature as it concerns Lithuania. One big controversy developed in August, 1981, when Krause Publication's *Standard Catalog of World Coins* removed Lithuania from the proper "L" section and placed it under "USSR." Our protests of that move generated numerous protest letters to Krause publications. One even came from the noted paper money collector/author, Albert Pick, who insisted that Lithuania remain under the "L's" in his paper money catalog. In May, 1984, Krause publications partially reversed its policy, and placed the Baltic States under the "B's" in a geographic Baltic category. We were still not satisfied, but held our peace, waiting for the right political events to take their course, which they fortunately did...

The national movement Sajūdis in the late 1980s and the successful drive for the re-establishment of Lithuanian Independence in 1990-1991 brought new life to our hobby. Now we were not only dealing with history, but with current events. New coin models and banknote designs were prepared, and we made sure the major numismatic publications, especially COIN WORLD and WORLD COIN NEWS were informed as to the breaking events in Lithuanian numismatics.

We were happy to inform WORLD COIN NEWS in its September 30, 1991 issue that Lithuania was now again free and independent, and would they now keep their word and move Lithuania back under the "L's" where it belonged? (They did) We reminded them of their editorial in their October 13, 1981 issue, where editor Trey Foerster had stated, "should the day come that one or all of these Baltic States gains their independence, the staff of the SCWC will be more than eager to give them their separate listing..." Our diligence certainly paid off.

Actually, we too, were astounded as to the fast moving

political events and the stunning success of the Lithuanian independence movement. Who would have thought back in 1978 that Lithuania would again be producing coins and banknotes in our lifetime, and that the USSR would be dissolved?

At this point I'd like to state our original goals of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association:

1. To bring together collectors of Lithuanian money, whether coin or currency, ancient or modern, in a common organization.
2. To provide an avenue (THE KNIGHT) to share numismatic knowledge with one another.
3. To inform members and educate them in detailed information heretofore unavailable in the English language, especially in the field of Lithuanian numismatics.
4. To advance the knowledge of the history and peoples of the Baltic States, particularly in the field of numismatics.

With those goals in mind, The Sajūdis movement in the late 1980s and the reestablishment of Lithuanian Independence has brought new life to our hobby. We watched each year as more and more previously unavailable information was published by scholars in Lithuania itself using primary sources. Several scholarly books about the subject have already been published, as well as many articles. The reestablishment of the Bank of Lithuania, and the Mint of Lithuania were two great milestones in the legacy of Lithuanian numismatics.

We have been thrilled to present to our members new material directly from Lithuania, from such scholars as Eugenijus Ivanauskas and Aleksandras Kubilas, who both have submitted material. We also have a source in Kaunas, Ignas Ropininkas, who regularly clips numismatic articles from Lithuanian newspapers and publications, allowing us to learn from the writings of such persons as Rūta Kuncienė (banknotes), Vincas Ruzas (medals), Algimantas Astikas (orders and decorations), Stasys Sajauskas (medieval coins), and others. I now have a substantial backlog of material to choose from for each issue of THE KNIGHT, which is quite different from ten years ago when I strove to find new material.

We have compared our numismatic information with their writings, and have been able to revise various details of our information as a result. On the other hand, we discovered that there was some information we have that they don't. This has brought up the need for cooperation between collectors and the LNA here, and collectors and scholars there in Lithuania.

In order to be sure our information is available, we regularly send THE KNIGHT to the Lithuanian National Archives, the Bank of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Mint, and a few selected collectors.

THE KNIGHT is written and typed by yours truly here in Albion, Michigan, and then sent to our Director in Maryland where it is printed and sent. Robert Douchis retired from the position after many years of faithful volunteer service to our club, in 1995.

Beginning with the September-October 1995 issue (Volume 18, No. 1), our Director has been Aleksandras Radžius who has filled in a much needed position. Aleksandras handles the finances of the LNA, the mailing and subscription lists, as well as continuing his translation projects. This year we have had the services

Continued on page 11...

My Congratulations to THE KNIGHT and the membership of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association on the 100th issue of the club publication. I also offer congratulations to all the brave people that have taken Lithuania out of the history books and once more made the nation a living entity preparing to make its contributions, including within numismatics, to the world of the future.

The LNA has had the important mission of not only bringing those people interested in Lithuanian numismatics together, but in bringing an awareness to the extensive numismatic legacy of the Grand Duchy and the current Republic.

The LNA was established at a time when Lithuania existed within the Soviet Union in name only. The LNA will, I'm certain, continue as the Lithuanian nation continues to offer its culture and economic development as mirrored through its numismatics.

All the Best, Cordially, RICHARD GIEDROYC [Giedraitis], International Editor, COIN WORLD, Sidney, Ohio.

On the occasion of the 100th issue of THE KNIGHT, I would like to acknowledge the achievements of Bob Douchis and Frank Passic. It is only because of the leadership and the long years of dedicated work of these two men that we have the LNA and THE KNIGHT and the resultant contribution to the vitality of Lithuanian cultural life world-wide. They are both true sons of Lithuania and the Lithuanian nation should be very proud of them. Bob and Frank, thank you for all your wonderful work, truly you are both inspirational. May we all see, as I am confident we will, the 200th issue!

--Aleksandras Radžius, Baltimore, Maryland.

Congratulations to The Knight on achieving its 100th issue. It takes a lot of grit and determination to achieve 100 of anything. It also takes a lot of work on the part of a talented editor. World Coin News and its parent firm, Krause Publications, look forward to many more years of working with the Lithuanian Numismatic Association and its members to promote Lithuania in our hobby.

The hobby's future will bring many changes, but one thing we know will be rock solid: our continuing friendship. We wish you all the best.

--David C. Harper, Editor, WORLD COIN NEWS.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For those of you who don't know it, Krause Publications' Colin Bruce is of Lithuanian heritage.

of an additional translator, Algirdas Kepalas of Levittown, New York, whom this editor has given the task of translating Rūta Kuncienė's book *Lietuvos Pinigai 1915-1941*, published in 1995.

This brings us to the present. As editor, I would like to encourage our members to display their Lithuanian collections at your local and state coin shows to further our hobby, and to promote the knowledge of Lithuania and its numismatics. We also need to increase our membership base, as collecting has undergone some significant changes over the past decade with the advent of baseball cards and other collectibles which have led the youth away from numismatics. We are enclosing with this issue a membership leaflet which we ask you reproduce and distribute at coin shows in your area.

We are always looking for our members to write articles about special items in their own personal collections which will help provide a variety of articles in THE KNIGHT. I would like to see more articles submitted by our LNA members to balance the multitude of material now coming from Lithuania.

A reminder, that our Want/For Sale ads are free to non-commercial members. We encourage our members to sell their material here, or place a want ad if you need something. And if you are a dealer, our rates are cheap. A business card can be inserted for only \$5 per issue, an insert price-list page is \$35, and there are rates for printed text ads in THE KNIGHT itself. Special congratulations to dealer Karl Stephens of Temple City, California, who has been with us from the very beginning. We encourage our members to write him for his latest price list.

We encourage our members to send in their membership renewals promptly as that will help us get started for the next Volume (19), which begins with the September-October issue. Thank you for your donations over and above the regular subscription/membership fee, which helps us with expenses such as ANA membership, P.O. Box rental, postage to mail THE KNIGHT to Lithuania, as well as normal printing and mailing costs.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank all of our members who have supported us through the years, and we are looking forward to many future issues to learn of the fascinating hobby of Lithuanian Numismatics via THE KNIGHT.

--FRANK PASSIC

Albion, Michigan

EDITOR, THE KNIGHT

INSERT ENCLOSED

Enclosed in this issue of THE KNIGHT is a membership application to the Lithuanian-American Genealogical Society. Want to locate the village where your grandparents were from? Want to find lost relatives, etc? Join the LAGS.

(A FREE SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS)

WANTED: Silver and gold bars, the first Lithuanian coins to AD 1495 and certain later coins (mainly talers and ducats). Olle Holden, Junkergatan 37, S-126 53 Hägersten, SWEDEN.

FOR SALE: 1490-1930 VYTAUTAS DIDYSIS MEDAL, 31 mm. aluminum, loop with ribbon, nice AU+ \$38. Augustinas Voldemaras Medal (Prime Minister), 51 mm. bronze post-WWII made in Australia. Nice UNC \$30; 1936 1 Centas coin Red BU \$26; 1936 5 Centas Red BU \$48; 1925 1 litas toned BU \$30; 1925 2 Litu Sharp BU \$30; 1936 5 Litai UNC w/spots \$15; 1936 10 Litu Choice Unc \$45.

Write: Tony Tumonis, 3232 N. Winstel #11, Tucson, AZ 85716. (520) 326-8028. 7-day return privilege.

EDITOR's NOTE: LNA member Tony Tumonis is very active in numismatics, besides working full time in real estate. Currently he is Regional Coordinator for the American Numismatic Association for Region #6, and ANA district delegate in Arizona. In 1993 he was presented an award as "ANA outstanding District delegate." He exhibits regularly at ANA conventions and has won numerous first and second place awards. He collects medieval Lithuanian coins and Lithuanian specimen notes. Recently he served as general chairman for the 1996 ANA early spring convention.

FOR SALE: Our new redesigned Capital Plastic Lithuanian coin holders for the 1925-36-38 Coins of the Republic of Lithuania! Great for permanent storage of your precious collection, easily fits into a medium safety deposit box. \$35.

Balzėkas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629.

FOR SALE: I have a nearly complete type set of Lithuanian lottery tickets from the 1930s-1940. Also: Rare Latvian banknote P-8 1920 500 Rubli, printer's obverse uniface specimen UNC with color chip added. Rare 1921 Lithuanian Treasury Loan Note for National Defense (4 languages: Lith, Hebrew, Polish, & Russian on it!). Scarce 1945 exp. 10 Punkte note for Lithuania. Vilnius Loan Note with coupons, 1939, beautiful artwork! Scarce Klaipėda (Memel) 1917 1/2 Mark VF. Beautiful full-color P-24 1928 50 Litu banknote PAVYZDYS specimen serial No. A000,000!

Also several Lithuanian numismatic books. These and other items, write for my price list. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224.

Enclosed are the funds to cover next year's subscription to The Knight. Along with the knowledge and information on Lithuanian coins and currency, I am also getting alot of Lithuanian history. I also believe that much current history is also around that would be appreciated by younger or new members of the LNA.

Many of the historical facts I once noticed in articles now have appeared changed. Many are attributed to the Polish nation. I know that Lithuanian being at the crossroads of traversing armies for centuries resulted in the confiscation and destruction of much early Lithuanian culture. Little mention is listed by early historians of Lithuania.

I hope that the 100th issue of The Knight will be a spectacular. ---Peter Shulin, Washington, PA.

[Lithuanian researchers are going into Swedish, Czech, Belgian, Ukrainian, Russian and Polish archives. They are looking at the original documents. The same is being done by non-Lithuanian researchers such as the Swede Echdal or the Russian Pashuta. The information they are finding is turning old views totally around and taking them out of the realm of myth and fantasy and placing them soundly on a foundation of scientific research. The result of this research is filtering down not only to the Lithuanian speaking population but also to the general world-wide public. In The Knight we attempt to provide our readers with the latest and the highest quality information on Lithuanian numismatics, and for that to be fully appreciated we have to also present the relevant accompanying historical and heraldic facts. --Aleksandras Radzius, DIRECTOR.]

IGNAS DOMEIKA

Continued from page 5...

Ignatius Domeika died in Santiago, Chile on January 23, 1889 while preparing, once more, to return to Lithuania. The thankful Chileans have erected for him a majestic memorial.

Even today in Chile, his descendants hold honorable positions in Chile. His grandchild, Casimir Domeyko, died in 1972. His great-great-grandchild, Judge Ignas Domeiko, son Ignas and daughter Carmen Zanskevic reside in Santiago. They all take great pride in their Lithuanian heritage.



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